



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

October 11, 2004

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission:

SUBJECT: 2005 Spring Wild Turkey Regulations

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background

Wild turkey populations have expanded to allow additional spring hunting opportunities and boundary enlargement. Among 28 spring wild turkey units proposed for the 2005 hunting season, 25 are the same as described for the 2004 season. Three units have been expanded ("L," "P," and "X"). There are 44,524 square miles open to spring wild turkey hunting. These spring hunting season boundary adjustments are a step towards meeting the demand for additional hunting opportunities while meeting hunter satisfaction and approval.

Constituents groups and Law Enforcement Division have indicated a need to clarify method of take concerning bait and electronic calls for wild turkeys. New definitions are proposed concerning the unlawful use of bait to aid in the taking of wild turkeys and the possession of electronic devices that imitate wild turkey calls by turkey hunters in the field.

Hunting definitions for Wetzel State Recreation Area and military lands are redefined to increase hunting opportunities within these areas. In the past, Wetzel was designated as a State Park and had restricted hunting regulations. Recently, Wetzel was designated as a State Recreation Area and the proposed changes reflect this shift in classification.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information only at the October 7, 2004 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared in the September 27, 2004 Calendar and is eligible for approval on November 4, 2004. We are now recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief  
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Mindy S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa  
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER**

## **Amendment No. 18 of 2004**

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective November 4, 2004, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **3.301 Wild turkey hunting, unlawful acts; exceptions.**

Sec. 3.301. (1) A person hunting wild turkey shall not use or possess afield an electronic device to simulate, replicate or imitate wild turkey calls or sounds, or an electronic, mechanical or live decoy. It shall be unlawful to use a dog to hunt wild turkey during the spring season. It shall be unlawful to take a wild turkey while the wild turkey is in a tree. It shall be unlawful to make use of bait to aid in the taking of a wild turkey. For the purposes of this regulation, "bait" means a substance composed of grain, fruit, vegetables, or other food placed to lure or entice wild turkeys. This does not apply to standing farm crops under normal agricultural practices, or other natural growing grains, fruits, or vegetables. For the purposes of this section, "mechanical decoy" means any device that by design or construction uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey except a wind sock or similar decoy body anchored at a fixed point into the ground and whose only motion is derived exclusively by power of the natural wind.

(2) A person may only take a wild turkey during the spring open season if the turkey has a beard and is taken within the unit and hunt period specified on the spring wild turkey license issued to that person. A person shall not take or possess more than one bearded turkey during the spring wild turkey season.

(3) A person may only take a wild turkey during the fall open season if the turkey is taken within the unit and hunt period specified on the fall wild turkey license issued to that person. A person shall not take or possess more than one turkey during the fall wild turkey season for each validation tag issued to that person.

### **3.302 Wild turkey; lawful possession; validation of license; unlawful acts.**

Sec. 3.302. (1) Immediately upon killing a turkey, a person shall validate their license by notching out the appropriate information as instructed on the license and shall securely attach the license around a leg of the bird.

(2) It shall be unlawful to possess or transport a turkey unless the turkey license is securely attached to a leg of the turkey and the appropriate information is notched on the turkey license.

(3) The holder of a private land turkey license shall only take a turkey on privately owned lands and enclosed controlled-access military lands within the management unit and during the hunting period specified on the private land turkey license.

### **7.38 Repealed.**

### **12.612 "Spring wild turkey management unit L" defined.**

Sec. 12.612. "Spring wild turkey management unit L" means all of Allegan and Barry Counties.

### **12.616 "Spring wild turkey management unit P" defined.**

Sec. 12.616. "Spring wild turkey management unit P" means all of Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties.

### **12.619 Repealed.**

**12.625 Repealed.**

**12.624 "Spring wild turkey management unit X" defined.**

Sec. 12624. "Spring wild turkey management unit X" means all of Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, and Washtenaw counties and those portions of Genesee, Ingham, Livingston, and Shiawassee counties that is bounded by a line beginning in Genesee county at the junction of highway I-69 and highway US-23 (near the city of Flint), then southerly on highway US-23 to highway M-59 in Livingston county, easterly on highway M-59 to the Livingston-Oakland county line, southerly on the Livingston-Oakland county line to the Washtenaw county line, westerly on the Washtenaw-Livingston county line to the Ingham-Jackson county line, westerly on the Ingham-Jackson county line to highway US-127 in southern Ingham county, northerly on highway US-127 to Lake Lansing road in northern Ingham county, easterly on Lake Lansing road to Hagadorn road, southerly on Hagadorn road to Haslett road, easterly on Haslett road to highway M-52, northerly on highway M-52 into Shiawassee county to highway I-69, northeasterly on highway I-69 into Genesee county to the point of beginning.

**12.637 Repealed.**

Issued this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director